

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 7, 2005, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 5 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 5 stand rejected. Claim 1 has been amended, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the relationship of a longitudinal length of the claimed plurality of bond pads segmented into at least two groups separated by an intergroup spacing greater than an equal interpad spacing within a group in relation to a longitudinal length of the plurality of bond pads if all of the bond pads were equidistantly spaced and in the same number of rows. Support for this amendment resides, at least, in paragraph [0039] of the as-filed specification.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,589,420 to Russell

Claims 1 through 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell, U.S. Patent No. 5,589,420 (hereinafter "Russell"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

M.P.E.P. 706.02(j) sets forth the standard for a Section 103(a) rejection:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, **the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (Emphasis added).

Amended independent claim 1 recites a semiconductor die comprising, *inter alia*:

a plurality of bond pads disposed adjacent the longitudinal centerline, wherein the plurality of bond pads has a longitudinal length along the longitudinal centerline determined by a longitudinal extent of the plurality of bond pads if equidistantly spaced in a given number of at least one longitudinal row, and wherein the plurality of bond pads are arranged in a same number of longitudinal rows as the

given number at least one longitudinal row and comprising at least two longitudinally adjacent groups of bond pads, each bond pad within a group of bond pads being longitudinally separated from adjacent bond pads within the same group of bond pads by an equal interpad spacing of less than about 0.5 mm, an interpad spacing if all of the bond pads of the plurality were equidistantly spaced, each group of bond pads being separated from at least one longitudinally adjacent groups-group of bond pads by an intergroup spacing of greater than about 0.5 mm, the equal interpad spacing, wherein a longitudinal length of the at least two groups of bond pads and an intergroup spacing therebetween is substantially the same as the longitudinal length along the longitudinal centerline determined by a longitudinal extent of the plurality of bond pads if equidistantly spaced.

The reference, while teaching two longitudinally spaced groups on bond pads, fails to teach or suggest the above-recited structure. Further, as the disposition of the bond pads in the various embodiments of Russell is, at best, attributable to a desire to facilitate wire bonding to a large number of lead fingers and avoid the design restraints of a conventional LOC package, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Russell to arrive at Applicant's invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) obviousness rejections of claims 2-5 are improper because the nonobviousness of independent claim 1 precludes a rejection of claims 2-5 which depends therefrom because a dependent claim is obvious only if the independent claim from which it depends is obvious. See *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988), see also MPEP § 2143.03. Therefore, the Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) obviousness rejection to claims 2-5, which depend from allowable independent claim 1.

Claim 2 is additionally allowable because Russell fails to teach or suggest a semiconductor die wherein at least three longitudinally adjacent groups of bonds pads consist of three longitudinally adjacent groups.

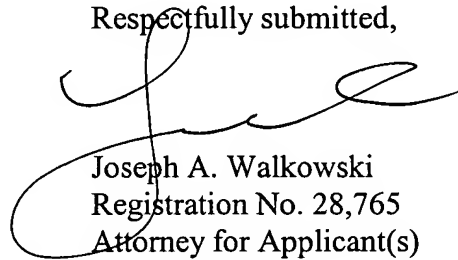
ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claim 1 should be entered as they are supported by the as-filed disclosure of the present application. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-5 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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